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Integration and coordination of efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice

International cooperation in combating transnational organized crime and corruption

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to fight transnational organized crime, in all its forms and manifestations, including new and emerging forms such as cybercrime and trafficking in cultural property, and corruption. The report also provides information on international cooperation and technical assistance undertaken by the Office to combat transnational organized crime and corruption.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2017/237. It provides information on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) related to item 6 (a) and (b) of the provisional agenda for the twenty-seventh session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/CN.15/2018/1). It contains information on the activities of UNODC to curb transnational organized crime, including new and emerging forms of crime, and to fight corruption. The report also contains information on the activities of UNODC to promote international cooperation in criminal matters, including through networking, and technical assistance undertaken by UNODC to upgrade the capacity of Member States in addressing related challenges. Prominence is given to action geared towards promoting the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto and the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

II. Transnational organized crime

A. Working groups of the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention

2. Within the framework of its thematic programme, UNODC continued to assist States in implementing the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto. In its resolution 8/2, the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention decided to continue the process of establishing the mechanism for the review of the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto. Sessions of the open-ended intergovernmental meeting for the purpose of defining the specific procedures and rules for the functioning of the review mechanism were held in Vienna from 30 October to 1 November 2017 and from 21 to 23 March 2018, respectively.

3. During the reporting period, the Working Group on Firearms, the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons and the Working Group on the Smuggling of Migrants held their respective meetings for 2017. Each working group discussed the preparation of a questionnaire for the review of the implementation of each protocol under the prospective review mechanism, in addition to other substantive agenda items.

4. The Working Group on International Cooperation held its eighth meeting back-to-back with the tenth meeting of the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance in Vienna from 9 to 13 October 2017, with each sharing a joint agenda item on the preparation of the questionnaire for the review of implementation of the Convention.

B. Promoting adherence to the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto

5. In 2017, UNODC provided pre-ratification support to Japan and pre-accession support to Fiji. Japan accepted the Organized Crime Convention, as well as the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. Fiji acceded to the Convention and the Protocols thereto.

6. The actions taken by States during the reporting period to achieve adherence to the Convention and its supplementary Protocols may be summarized as follows: Fiji acceded to the Convention and Japan accepted it. Fiji and the State of Palestine acceded to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and Japan accepted it. Côte d'Ivoire and Fiji acceded to the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol and Japan accepted it. Finally, Fiji acceded to the Firearms Protocol.

7. As at 9 February 2018, 189 States had become parties to the Convention; 173 to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; 146 to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; and 115 to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition.

C. Promoting the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto, with a focus on fostering international cooperation

1. Organized Crime Convention

8. The Secretariat continued to develop the knowledge management portal known as Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC) and to disseminate information on the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention. As of February 2018, SHERLOC included more than 2,700 cases involving organized crime from 116 countries and more than 6,800 pieces of legislation from 197 countries.

9. From February 2017 to February 2018, SHERLOC was accessed by 186,990 users, indicating that the number of users is rising. The 10 States with the largest number of portal users were the United States of America, India, Peru, Mexico, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Guatemala, the Philippines, Argentina, Colombia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

10. Global access and multilingualism are important goals for SHERLOC and, to that end, SHERLOC has been translated for use in all of the official languages of the United Nations. SHERLOC is also adaptable to all devices, enabling users to access it through mobile technologies.

11. The Office has expanded SHERLOC by adding new databases and functionalities, including a database on strategies and a database on treaties. The database on strategies contains strategic instruments relating to the regional and domestic implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto, while the database on treaties contains information on the ratification status of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto and other relevant legal instruments.

12. In order to assist Member States seeking to ratify, accede to or implement the Organized Crime Convention, the *Legislative Guides for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto* was updated pursuant to resolution 7/4 of the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention and has been published electronically on SHERLOC in English. The updated version of the *Legislative Guides* has been translated into all official languages of the United Nations and those language versions will also be made available on SHERLOC.

13. The Office has also continued to manage and update the directory of competent national authorities under the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and the Organized Crime Convention on the SHERLOC platform. The directory will be expanded to include competent authorities for judicial cooperation in terrorism cases. Moreover, terrorism will be the fifteenth type of crime to be covered in the SHERLOC databases, which will include terrorism-related case law, legislation, bibliographic resources and national strategies against terrorism.

14. The Office continued to work on the collection of resources pertaining to drug control. It developed a new repository on drug control, which replaced the former "legal library" and is now administered under SHERLOC. The repository includes national legislation on drug control, as well as links to the directory of competent national authorities under the 1988 Convention and the Organized Crime Convention and to the directory of competent national authorities responsible for issuing

certificates and authorizations for the import and export of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and for regulating or enforcing national control over precursors and essential chemicals. The repository on drug control is linked to SHERLOC and constitutes a unique gateway to information related to drug control.

15. The Office also worked on the development of an additional component of SHERLOC, the external contributors interface, which is a new, simplified web-based tool for gathering comprehensive information on the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto. The interface will provide focal points with access to password-protected accounts as a security measure. With such access, States parties will be able to easily and quickly input, update or verify national information on legislation and jurisprudence and provide analysis on key legal issues in their national legislation and case law. The Secretariat plans to launch the tool at the end of 2018.

16. During the reporting period, the Secretariat finalized its work on the redevelopment of the Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool, a guidance tool designed to assist criminal justice practitioners in expeditiously drafting requests for mutual legal assistance. The tool was presented in the context of promotional and awareness-raising activities at a number of events, including the twenty-second Annual Conference of the International Association of Prosecutors (Beijing, 10–15 September 2017), the meeting of the Criminal and Legal Affairs Subgroup of the Group of Eight Lyon-Roma Anti-Crime and Terrorism Group (3–5 October 2017) and the meeting of the Asia-Pacific Law Enforcement Network of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) (Republic of Korea, 15–17 November 2017). At the time of drafting the present report, UNODC was working towards making the tool available as an open resource on the UNODC website.

17. Through its Country Office in the Islamic Republic of Iran, UNODC supported and contributed substantively to a national meeting on international judicial cooperation: mutual legal assistance and extradition, held in Tabriz, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 3 and 4 May 2017. The meeting was organized in close coordination with the International Affairs Department of the Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran and hosted senior officers from judicial authorities and legal officials from Tehran, Tabriz and the East Azerbaijan Province. The discussions revolved around practical and legal aspects of extradition and mutual legal assistance from both a national and international perspective.

18. A regional workshop on the promotion of cooperation among the countries in West and Central Asia to better address the international transfer of sentenced persons, organized under subprogramme 2 of the UNODC regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, was held in Bishkek on 7 and 8 September 2017.

19. UNODC held an expert group meeting in Vienna on 5 and 6 October 2017 to support the implementation of Conference resolution 8/1. Twenty-one experts from central authorities from all regions shared experiences and good practices on the roles and functions of central authorities, inter-agency cooperation, case management, resources and electronic evidence.

20. During the reporting period, representatives of UNODC trained experts from 46 States on the Organized Crime Convention, documenting a 33 per cent increase in knowledge among trainees as a result. The Office also developed modules on combating organized crime for the Education for Justice (E4J) initiative. In that connection, UNODC organized two expert group meetings and initiated research on the nexus between organized crime and terrorism and the links between organized crime and cybercrime and organized crime and gender.

2. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children

21. UNODC continued to assist States parties in implementing the Trafficking in Persons Protocol through normative, policy support and operational work. At the global level, under its project Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants, implemented in partnership with the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations Children's Fund, UNODC successfully carried out more than 100 activities addressing trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants in 2017. The project also strengthened regional cooperation in criminal matters related to trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, for example, through the organization of a workshop with the Ibero-American network of prosecutors against trafficking in persons, held in Colombia from 19 to 21 September 2017.

22. Through its Global Programme against Trafficking in Persons, UNODC reached 735 practitioners, government officials and civil society representatives from 40 countries. In particular, in partnership with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, the Office conducted a regional workshop in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for national anti-trafficking coordinators of South-Eastern Europe with a focus on sexual exploitation and national referral mechanisms. UNODC also held judicial colloquiums in Algeria and Botswana.

23. The theme of the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, observed on 30 July 2017, was "act to protect and assist trafficked persons". To mark the day, the Office organized a special screening of the film *Sold* for Permanent Missions in Vienna. The corresponding social media campaign, which included a message released worldwide on 30 July 2017 via the social media platform Thunderclap, generated a record reach of 73 million impressions worldwide. The Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants also organized advocacy events such as the exhibition entitled "Hear their voices. Act to protect", which was presented in Bishkek, Brussels and Vienna on the occasion of the European Union Anti-Trafficking Day on 18 October 2017 and United Nations Day on 24 October 2017 in order to draw attention to the testimonies of victims.

24. UNODC published a new issue paper on the international legal definition of trafficking in persons: consolidation of research findings and reflection on issues raised, which was launched at the twenty-sixth session of the Commission.

25. Furthermore, UNODC provided substantive support to the informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing in support of the preparatory process towards the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, held on 23 June 2017, as well as to the high-level meeting itself, which resulted in a political declaration on the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

26. UNODC prepared a draft of the report of the Secretary-General on trafficking in persons in armed conflict pursuant to Security Council resolution 2331 (2016) (S/2017/939). The report was before the Council at its 8111th meeting, held on 21 November 2017, at which the Council adopted resolution 2388 (2017).

27. UNODC continued to play a leading role and maintained its coordination functions within the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, resulting in the joint development of products to harmonize anti-trafficking responses, such as Issue Brief 02 of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, on trafficking in persons in humanitarian crises.

28. UNODC continued to manage the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which in 2017 supported 18 non-governmental partner organizations providing specialized assistance to around 3,000 victims of trafficking in persons in 18 countries, with grants totalling $403,447. In 2017, the Trust Fund raised a total of $1.66 million in

contributions, which are to be used for its third small grants programme, starting in 2018.

3. Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air

29. UNODC continued to assist States parties in implementing the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol through normative, policy support and operational work. It reached over 200 practitioners through its technical assistance activities under the Global Programme against the Smuggling of Migrants, including a regional workshop on preventing and combating the smuggling of migrants by strengthening capacity in examining security documents, held in South Africa.

30. The Office organized a Regional Expert Group Meeting on smuggling of migrants, held in Kenya from 13 to 15 December 2017, with the objective of drafting the first plan of action and road map for concerted action against the smuggling of migrants in East Africa.

31. The Office also organized the third Regional Expert Group Meeting on cross-border cooperation and financial investigations and prosecutions in South-Eastern Europe, with a focus on disruption of financial flows deriving from the smuggling of migrants in the region. The meeting was held in Croatia from 18 to 20 October 2017 and was attended by policymakers and practitioners from 14 countries.

32. A regional training workshop to promote international judicial cooperation against the smuggling of migrants by sea affecting the Mediterranean Sea was held in Malta from 9 to 11 May 2017. It was the fourth in a series of transregional workshops on the smuggling of migrants by sea, and gathered prosecutors, judges and central authorities from countries of the Middle East and North Africa and the European Union, as well as from the European Commission, the Mediterranean Operation Sophia of the European Union Naval Force and UNODC, to share good practices, learn how to make better use of judicial cooperation in migrant smuggling cases and learn about the tools available for that purpose.

33. A subregional workshop to promote international cooperation in cases of migrant smuggling was held in Tunis from 25 to 27 September 2017. It brought together experts, including prosecutors, police officers and officials of competent Ministries, from Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and the Sudan.

34. The provision of technical assistance also included a "gaps and needs assessment mission" on the smuggling of migrants in the Maldives, in which amendments to legislation relating to the smuggling of migrants were proposed.

35. During the reporting period, the Office continued to develop modules on trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants for the E4J initiative, including educational components for primary and secondary schools and universities. In that connection, UNODC organized a workshop in collaboration with the European University Institute entitled "When smuggling goes wrong: from a crime against State sovereignty to a crime against persons". The objective of the workshop was to strengthen partnerships between UNODC and academia, gain a better understanding of the status of research on the smuggling of migrants and develop recommendations on the topic. UNODC also initiated a research effort on the role of women in the smuggling of migrants.

36. On the margins of the twenty-sixth session of the Commission, the Office launched a new policy tool: an issue paper on the concept of "financial or other material benefit" in the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol. The issue paper examines legislation and case law in order to gain a comparative perspective on how the "financial or other material benefit" element of migrant smuggling as defined in the Protocol has been applied. UNODC further developed its case law database on the smuggling of migrants, under SHERLOC, which included 758 cases from 39 jurisdictions as of December 2017.

37. UNODC provided support, through the Global Migration Group, for the consultative process of the General Assembly on the development of a global compact on refugees and a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. In particular, the Office supported the fifth of six informal thematic sessions of the General Assembly on facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration, which was devoted to the theme of smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery, including appropriate identification, protection and assistance to migrants and trafficking victims; the session was held in Vienna on 4 and 5 September 2017. Furthermore, the Office supported the second informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing on the development of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration and moderated a panel discussion on the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery, held in Geneva on 11 October 2017. Representatives of UNODC also took part in a stocktaking meeting held in Mexico in December 2017, which marked the end of the preparatory phase of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

4. Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition

38. UNODC continued to promote the ratification and implementation of the Firearms Protocol. Through its Global Programme on Firearms, UNODC also continued its efforts to strengthen Member States' criminal justice responses and to promote international cooperation and exchange of information in relation to trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition.

39. UNODC joined the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organization in organizing a five-day simultaneous cross-border police operation named TRIGGER III in Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger and Nigeria, leading to the seizure of 130 firearms, including 49 Kalashnikov-type assault rifles, and several rounds of ammunition, as well as the initiation of 50 international tracing requests. Similarly, UNODC also participated in and contributed to the Europol Joint Action Days 2017. Sixty-eight European Union and non-European Union countries participated in the operations, which resulted in the seizure of 136 firearms, 7,095 rounds of ammunition and a wide range of other illicit goods and contraband.

40. To increase international cooperation and information exchange, UNODC continued to promote regular exchanges among firearms control and criminal justice practitioners through a community of practitioners. In that regard, UNODC organized several regional meetings, bringing together more than 60 practitioners from 11 countries in Africa (Algeria, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco and the Niger) and the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) to share and discuss experiences, good practices and lessons learned relating to the investigation and prosecution of firearms trafficking cases. UNODC also initiated an effort to compile investigated and prosecuted firearms trafficking cases, which will be published in a digest of firearms trafficking cases that places particular focus on international cooperation.

41. UNODC continued to roll out its comprehensive training curriculum on investigation and prosecution of trafficking in firearms and other firearms-related crimes and trained around 60 officials from Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali in the course of the reporting period.

D. Networking to combat transnational organized crime

1. Law enforcement networking

42. Under the UNODC Global Programme on Building Effective Networks against Transnational Organized Crime (BENATOC) within the framework of the "networking the networks" initiative, UNODC continued to build stronger operational cooperation links between existing international and regional law enforcement

cooperation centres and organizations, as well as with the networks of financial intelligence units. UNODC also supported countries in a number of regions to strengthen and/or establish regional cooperation centres to promote crime-related intelligence-sharing and coordination of complex multilateral operations targeting all forms of organized crime and illicit financial flows.

43. The Office continued to engage with countries of the South Asia region to advance their initiative to establish a South Asian regional intelligence and coordination centre on transnational organized crime. Within the framework of the Law Enforcement TrainNet initiative of BENATOC, UNODC continued to facilitate networking between law enforcement training and educational institutions for exchange of curricula, training materials, tools, training methodologies, best practices and trainers.

44. In August 2017, the Government of Mexico, in coordination with the Police Community of the Americas (Ameripol), hosted the third meeting under the Law Enforcement TrainNet initiative, which focused on training initiatives related to the investigation of money-laundering by means of cryptocurrencies, countering illicit arms flows and other topics.

45. Following the official start of the new programme entitled "CRIMJUST: strengthening criminal investigation and criminal justice cooperation along the cocaine route in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa (2016–2020)", the Office implemented, with the financial support of the European Union, a total of 62 activities aimed at improving the technical capacity of criminal justice actors to fight organized crime along the cocaine route, benefiting more than 1,600 officials.

46. Implemented by UNODC in partnership with INTERPOL and Transparency International, CRIMJUST provided technical assistance to 12 countries (Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cabo Verde, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria, Panama and Peru). The main domains of assistance included, inter alia, capacity-building; strengthening the capacities of criminal justice institutions (law enforcement and the judiciary) to detect, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate drug-trafficking and related organized crime cases; fostering regional and interregional cooperation between criminal justice institutions (law enforcement and the judiciary); and enhancing the institutional integrity and accountability of criminal justice institutions.

47. CRIMJUST also enabled the launching in 2017 of an interregional operation led by intelligence officials involving 13 countries that culminated in the seizure of more than 55 tons of drugs, the dismantling of 20 clandestine laboratories and more than 350 arrests.

2. Judicial networking

48. The UNODC Global Programme for Strengthening the Capacities of Member States to Prevent and Combat Organized and Serious Crime continued to foster international and regional judicial cooperation in criminal matters, in particular by supporting regional judicial cooperation networks. In 2017, the Programme continued to support the Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime (WACAP), the Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors from Source, Transit and Destination Countries in Response to Transnational Organized Crime in Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus and the Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network.

49. In 2017, UNODC continued to support the WACAP train-the-trainer programme on international cooperation in criminal matters, which was aimed at facilitating knowledge-transfer among peers; the train-the-trainer sessions were delivered to 333 prosecutors, judges, law enforcement officials and INTERPOL officers from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo.

50. WACAP cooperated with other programmes and networks to promote international cooperation in criminal matters and enhance the capacity of criminal justice practitioners to investigate and prosecute different forms of transnational organized crime. The CRIMJUST project and WACAP jointly organized a training session for anti-drug agencies of Nigeria and Ghana to share good practices on the prosecution of drug trafficking cases and enhance cross-border cooperation, which was held from 26 to 28 September 2017.

51. WACAP and the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for West Africa held a joint meeting in Senegal from 24 to 26 October 2017. The participants included more than 40 officials from all countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) as well as Mauritania, Sao Tome and Principe, the ECOWAS Court of Justice and the ECOWAS Commission. They discussed the challenges of extradition within the ECOWAS region and obstacles encountered in the seizing, freezing, confiscation and management of criminal proceeds.

52. A regional cooperation workshop organized by the Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants and WACAP on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants was held in Vienna on 14 and 15 December 2017 and was attended by experts and WACAP contact points from Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, the Gambia, Mali, the Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.

53. An interregional workshop on the use of electronic evidence in criminal proceedings was held in Tashkent in 2017. The workshop was attended by 43 judges and lecturers from judicial training centres in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

54. The Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network, modelled on WACAP and other such networks, was launched in Khartoum on 1 and 2 November 2017 by the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, together with the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and with the support of UNODC. It will be led by ICGLR and UNODC, with political support from the Office of the Special Envoy, and will cover 12 States (Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia).

55. An informal meeting of regional judicial cooperation networks was held in Vienna on 4 October 2017. The Commonwealth Network of Contact Persons, the European Judicial Network, the Ibero-American Network for International Legal Cooperation, WACAP, the Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network and the Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors from Source, Transit and Destination Countries in Response to Transnational Organized Crime in Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus were represented. Participants highlighted the benefits of greater collaboration, information-sharing and joint participation in each other's activities. It was agreed to establish an informal coordination mechanism to ensure that the networks would meet at least once a year.

E. Activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the field of trafficking in cultural property

56. In cooperation with various partners, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), INTERPOL and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, UNODC continued to provide technical assistance to Member States in order to strengthen their criminal justice responses to trafficking in cultural property, including by disseminating the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences and its practical assistance tool.

57. Since May 2017, UNODC has been involved in capacity-building activities in support of officials from Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Israel, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Montenegro, Pakistan, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.

58. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/186, UNODC continued to receive from and disseminate to Member States information on the designation of contact points to facilitate international cooperation within the application of the Organized Crime Convention, for the purpose of preventing and combating trafficking in cultural property.

59. UNODC continued to work closely with its partners, including UNESCO and INTERPOL, on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2199 (2015), on safeguarding Iraqi and Syrian cultural heritage, and on Security Council resolution 2347 (2017), on destruction of and trafficking in cultural property by terrorist groups and in situations of armed conflict.

F. Activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the field of cybercrime

60. The UNODC Global Programme on Cybercrime continued to assist in developing the capacity of Member States to prevent, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate all types of cybercrime in Central America, East Africa, Central Asia, the Southern Caucasus and South-East Asia. The Programme supported Member States by providing high-level briefings and training to more than 90 parliamentarians on cybercrime investigations, in particular cases involving online child sexual exploitation and abuse, digital forensics, cryptocurrency investigation and equipment for front-line officers.

61. An expert group meeting jointly organized by UNODC and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate in cooperation with the International Association of Prosecutors was held in Vienna on 12 and 13 February 2018. The aim of the meeting was to establish the basis for the development of a practical guide for central authorities, prosecutors and investigators to facilitate the obtaining of electronic evidence from foreign jurisdictions in investigations related to counter-terrorism and cross-border organized crime. The meeting offered participants the opportunity to share domestic laws and guides, as well as examples of actual cases in which electronic evidence was obtained from communication service providers located in foreign jurisdictions.

62. The third meeting of the Expert Group to Conduct a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime was held in Vienna from 10 to 13 April 2017; its fourth meeting is to be held from 3 to 5 April 2018. In accordance with Commission resolution 26/4, as well as the Expert Group's 2018–2021 workplan as approved by its extended Bureau, the meeting provided a platform to discuss the first two main topics of the workplan, legislation and frameworks, and criminalization.

III. Corruption

A. Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption

63. The seventh session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption was held in Vienna from 6 to 10 November 2017. The Conference was attended by almost 2,000 participants representing 160 Member States and many international and non-governmental organizations. During the conference, 32 special events were held addressing various anti-corruption issues. Action taken by the Conference included the adoption of the following resolutions: (a) resolution 7/1, on strengthening mutual legal assistance for international

cooperation and asset recovery; (b) resolution 7/2, on preventing and combating corruption in all its forms more effectively, including, among others, when it involves vast quantities of assets, based on a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption; (c) resolution 7/3, on promoting technical assistance to support the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption; (d) resolution 7/4, on enhancing synergies between relevant multilateral organizations responsible for review mechanisms in the field of anti-corruption; (e) resolution 7/5, on promoting preventive measures against corruption; (f) resolution 7/6, on follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption; (g) resolution 7/7, on strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in small island developing States; and (h) resolution 7/8, on corruption in sport. At the same meeting, the Conference adopted decision 7/1, entitled "Work of the subsidiary bodies established by the Conference" (see CAC/COSP/2017/14).

1. Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

64. At its third session, held in Doha in 2009, the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption adopted resolution 3/1, entitled "Review mechanism", establishing the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The Implementation Review Group, which oversees the work of the Mechanism, held its eighth session from 19 to 23 June 2017 and its resumed eighth session on 7 and 8 November 2017 in Vienna. The Group considered, inter alia, the implementation of the Convention, the performance of the Implementation Review Mechanism, technical assistance, and financial and budgetary matters.

65. Furthermore, in accordance with Conference resolution 4/6, entitled "Non-governmental organizations and the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption", the Secretariat conducted a briefing for non-governmental organizations on the margins of the eighth session of the Implementation Review Group. The briefing was chaired by the Vice-President of the Conference.

66. UNODC provided technical and substantive services to the Implementation Review Mechanism and the Implementation Review Group in 2017, the second year of the second cycle of the Review Mechanism. Those services included providing training and assistance to governmental experts from States parties under review and reviewing States, supporting the country reviews and producing thematic reports on the implementation trends and related technical assistance needs identified during the review process. In that connection, the Secretariat published the second edition of a study entitled *State of implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption: criminalization, law enforcement and international cooperation*, which contains an in-depth analysis of the thematic findings from the country reviews that had been completed at the time of drafting of the study. The Secretariat also prepared a note entitled "Set of non-binding recommendations and conclusions based on lessons learned regarding the implementation of chapters III and IV of the United Nations Convention against Corruption" (CAC/COSP/2017/5). The note provides an overview of the recommendations made in the country reviews.

67. At the time of drafting of the present report, 162 executive summaries of the country reports under the first cycle and 4 under the second cycle of the Mechanism had been completed and published. UNODC also provided technical assistance in response to the observations emanating from the reviews, including through the drafting of action plans, anti-corruption strategies and legislation, capacity-building and other ad hoc activities.

68. Since 2010, a total of $14,086,600 in voluntary contributions in support of Review Mechanism activities have been received from Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Morocco, the

Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Panama, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In-kind contributions have also been provided by Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, the Bahamas, Bahrain, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, China, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Gabon, Grenada, Greece, India, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Vanuatu.[1]

2. Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption

69. At its eighth meeting, held in Vienna from 21 to 23 August 2017, the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption addressed the implementation of Conference resolution 6/6, entitled "Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption". The Working Group also further discussed the thematic topics for inclusion in the provisional agenda of its next session, on good practices and initiatives in the prevention of corruption, agreed upon at its seventh meeting, held in Vienna from 22 to 24 August 2016 (see CAC/COSP/WG.4/2016/5), which included education in schools and universities on anti-corruption efforts (art. 13, para. 1 (c), of the Convention against Corruption) and integrity in criminal justice institutions (arts. 7, 8 and 11 of the Convention against Corruption).

70. At its seventh session, the Conference adopted resolution 7/6, entitled "Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption", in which it decided, inter alia, that the Working Group should continue its work and hold at least two meetings prior to the eighth session of the Conference. The Conference also adopted resolution 7/5, entitled "Promoting preventive measures against corruption", in which it decided that the next meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption should include the topics of (a) the use and effectiveness of asset declarations systems and (b) conflicts of interest.

3. Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery

71. At its eleventh meeting, held in Vienna on 24 and 25 August 2017, the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery discussed, inter alia, the proactive and timely sharing of information, in accordance with article 56 of the Convention. It also discussed good practices for identifying victims of corruption and the parameters for compensating them, in accordance with Conference resolution 6/2. The Working Group meeting also served as a forum for discussions on capacity-building and technical assistance in asset recovery. In that regard, the Group welcomed a briefing provided by representatives of UNODC on technical assistance and capacity-building, including assistance provided by the joint World Bank/UNODC Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative.

72. At the seventh session of the Conference of the States Parties, UNODC launched a publication entitled "Effective management and disposal of seized and confiscated assets" which was a continuation of the Office's work on the management and disposal of seized and confiscated assets, and on identifying good practices in the management and disposal of recovered and returned stolen assets in support of sustainable development. At the same session, the Conference adopted resolution 7/1, entitled "Strengthening mutual legal assistance for international cooperation and asset recovery", in which it decided that the Working Group on Asset Recovery should continue its work by, inter alia, (a) gathering information on and best practices related to the identification and compensation of victims; (b) conducting analyses of third-party challenges; (c) collecting data on best practices in the timely sharing of information between States; and (d) conducting an analysis of how communication

[1] Information as at 18 January 2018.

and coordination between various asset recovery practitioner networks could be improved.

4. Experts to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption

73. The sixth open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the Convention against Corruption was held in Vienna on 6 and 7 November 2017. At the meeting, the experts took stock of country reviews on the implementation of chapter IV of the Convention against Corruption, including the findings on challenges, successes and good practices, as well as the lessons learned and technical assistance needs. The experts invited States parties to further assist one another in the investigation and prosecution of corruption cases by effectively using the Convention against Corruption as a legal basis for international cooperation. The experts also discussed international cooperation in civil and administrative proceedings for the detection of offences under the Convention, electronic tools and systems, and an update by UNODC of tools and services to promote international cooperation.

B. Promoting ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

1. Tools and knowledge-building

74. UNODC continued to develop and disseminate guides, handbooks and other tools. During the seventh session of the Conference, UNODC launched two publications: the *Handbook on Anti-Corruption Measures in Prisons* and an updated edition of the study *State of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption: Criminalization, Law Enforcement and International Cooperation*. UNODC, through the StAR Initiative, also launched the "Guidelines for efficient recovery of stolen assets",[2] in cooperation with the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland.

75. In partnership with the International Olympic Committee, UNODC launched a publication entitled *UNODC IOC Study on Criminal Law Provisions for the Prosecution of Competition Manipulation* to support States in strengthening their legislative frameworks in the area of integrity in sports.

76. The interactive e-learning tool for the private sector entitled "The fight against corruption" is now available in 23 languages, and 247,500 users have taken the course to date.

77. The Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge (TRACK) portal, received a total of 54,488 page views in 2017 and at the time of drafting of the present report contained 56,068 legal provisions.

78. UNODC also continued its efforts to provide regional and country-specific resources. In 2017, the joint UNODC-UNDP Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project published the *Pacific Youth Anti-Corruption Advocate's Toolkit* in collaboration with the Pacific Youth Council. UNODC also worked on the development of a handbook on foreign bribery and international cooperation in South-East Asia. In Colombia, UNODC developed an online database with case studies on how businesses address the challenge of corruption.

2. Provision of technical assistance for the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

79. UNODC carried out a broad set of tailored technical assistance activities at the global, regional and national levels. For instance, UNODC field-based anti-corruption

[2] See https://guidelines.assetrecovery.org/guidelines.

advisers played an important role in providing rapidly deployable professional expertise to deliver on-site guidance.

80. UNODC deploys advisers with regional responsibilities for Central America and the Caribbean, the Pacific, South-East Asia, South Asia, and West and Central Africa. A senior global adviser is based in Vienna and advisers with a national focus are based in El Salvador, Guyana and Qatar. Additionally, UNODC field offices implemented projects on the ground in 12 States and Kosovo.[3]

81. UNODC continues to receive requests from States seeking to improve their legislation to prevent and fight corruption, often based on the recommendations made on the basis of the country reviews. During the reporting period, UNODC assisted nine States in the drafting or amending of their anti-corruption legislation.

Investigation and prosecution of corruption

82. UNODC worked with States to build capacity in the criminal justice sector, including by providing training programmes covering topics such as abuse of power, financial investigations, mutual legal assistance and special investigative techniques to investigators, prosecutors and law enforcement officials from 23 States.

83. In addition, UNODC provided legislative assistance to four States in the drafting of whistle-blower protection laws and organized training workshops on whistle-blower and witness protection in five States. Furthermore, UNODC supported the Asian Football Confederation in the development of its new whistle-blower policy.

84. UNODC supported efforts to combat corruption and money-laundering, including through training workshops held in 12 States on investigations and prosecutions and legislative drafting assistance. In the Pacific region, the Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project and the Global Programme against Money-Laundering jointly delivered a regional training programme on money-laundering attended by participants from five States.

85. UNODC worked with law enforcement officials in six States to strengthen integrity, including by assisting in the drafting of standard operating procedures and in developing a corruption risk mapping methodology and institutional integrity strategies. Furthermore, as part of the CRIMJUST programme, UNODC held an initial workshop in January 2017 focusing on institutional integrity and accountability.

Judicial integrity

86. As part of the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, UNODC worked towards the establishment of a global judicial integrity network, which is to be launched in April 2018 at the United Nations headquarters in Vienna. Since its inception, more than 4,000 judges and other justice sector stakeholders from a total of 155 countries have been reached through the Global Programme, with more than 340 judges from 117 countries benefiting from a multitude of capacity-building events.

87. UNODC held seven regional preparatory meetings for the establishment of the global judicial integrity network, translated a number of existing resources on judicial integrity into additional languages and began developing a judicial ethics training package, including an e-learning course and a trainer's manual.

88. In addition, UNODC provided technical assistance on judicial integrity to the judiciaries of nine States, including in reviewing and amending codes of ethics, assessing judicial integrity mechanisms and delivering training and technical tools.

[3] All references to Kosovo in the present document should be understood to be in compliance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Prevention of corruption

89. Prevention of corruption continues to be a crucial element of the Office's work. UNODC assisted nine States in developing and implementing national anti-corruption strategies.

90. UNODC also supported a number of efforts to increase transparency and accountability in the public sector. For instance, UNODC assisted four States in drafting access-to-information laws and worked with Vanuatu on raising awareness of its access-to-information bill. In Cambodia, UNODC delivered training to various national authorities on managing conflicts of interest and asset declarations for public officials.

91. In South-East Asia, UNODC conducted a series of regional and national workshops on risk assessment and mitigation of corruption in public procurement. UNODC also trained public officials in Panama on the topic of public procurement.

92. UNODC worked to mainstream corruption prevention into its overall work. It held training sessions at two regional events on the links between corruption and drug trafficking, and UNODC representatives made presentations at regional and global events in five States as well as with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization on the links between the financing of terrorism and corruption. In addition, training programmes addressing the links between corruption and organized crime were delivered in three States.

93. In the area of integrity in sport, UNODC supported the anti-match-fixing project of Italy. UNODC, the International Olympic Committee, the Council of Europe, OECD and the United Kingdom supported the creation of an initiative named the International Partnership against Corruption in Sport. UNODC also provided training workshops on preventing corruption in sport in Viet Nam.

94. UNODC continued to mainstream anti-corruption efforts into work of the Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime. It also continued its ongoing work with wildlife management authorities in three States to carry out corruption risk assessments and develop and implement corruption risk mitigation strategies.

95. UNODC also made strides in the fight against corruption in the private sector. For instance, with the support of the Siemens Integrity Initiative, the Office implemented a project in Colombia focused on public-private partnerships and strengthening the legislative framework related to the fight against corruption in the private sector. At the regional level, the Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project developed a code of conduct and toolkit for the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization, and UNODC delivered the first of a series of workshops in South-Eastern Europe on combating corruption in the private sector through collective action with civil society organizations.

Youth, education and civil society

96. UNODC continued to implement two major education initiatives: the Anti-Corruption Academic (ACAD) Initiative and the E4J initiative. ACAD developed a model university course on the Convention against Corruption, which has been made available online in Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Spanish; a Russian-language version is under development. In addition, ACAD continued to foster a network of academics involved in anti-corruption education, including by holding a regional meeting for academics from the Asia-Pacific region.

97. In partnership with the E4J initiative, UNODC worked to build a culture of lawfulness among children and youth through the provision of age-appropriate educational materials on topics related to criminal justice and crime prevention, including anti-corruption. For instance, the E4J initiative developed a guide for organizers of model United Nations events in relation to topics such as corruption and non-electronic educational games, including on the subject of anti-corruption, for

schoolchildren at the secondary level, and university-level modules to support academics in teaching and researching anti-corruption-related topics. The E4J initiative also held conferences, workshops and seminars on education-related topics in seven States.

98. In the Pacific region, UNODC worked to raise awareness of issues surrounding corruption among young people and to encourage them to take active leadership roles in the fight against corruption. UNODC held workshops in Tonga and the Pacific region to promote and build the capacity of young women to participate in anti-corruption efforts.

99. UNODC also worked to promote the role of civil society in combating corruption, including by organizing a workshop for investigative journalists from West Africa aimed at building the capacity of journalists to investigate corruption. Globally, UNODC continued to expand its outreach efforts to civil society partners, including by holding training workshops on the Implementation Review Mechanism.

International cooperation and asset recovery

100. UNODC continued to maintain a list of designated central authorities responsible for requests for mutual legal assistance in accordance with article 46, paragraph 13, of the Convention. At the time of drafting of the present report, the list contained information on authorities designated by 129 States.

101. Capacity-building workshops on international cooperation were held regionally in Central America and the Caribbean, South-East Asia and East Africa. In addition, UNODC worked to redevelop the Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool to make it more user-friendly, expand its functionality and integrate additional features.

102. UNODC provided assistance to national institutions through the StAR Initiative to strengthen their capacity to trace, seize, freeze, confiscate and return assets involved in cases of corruption. More than 20 countries, as well as several asset recovery forums and regional networks, received assistance through the StAR Initiative. In addition, the StAR Initiative worked with a number of jurisdictions through regional and/or international organizations in areas such as capacity-building and technical assistance.

103. Additionally, the StAR Initiative is working on a new edition of the publication entitled *The Puppet Masters: How the Corrupt Use Legal Structures to Hide Stolen Assets and What to Do About It* in order to bring it up to date with new cases and developments in the area of beneficial ownership.

3. Cooperation with other entities

104. UNODC works closely with other assistance providers, international organizations and entities. During the reporting period, the Office worked with OECD, the Group of 20, the Group of Seven, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the World Bank, the European Union, the Council of Europe and numerous other organizations and entities.

105. UNODC continued to coordinate its efforts within the United Nations system, including by working closely on projects with UNDP, the United Nations Global Compact and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Joint projects such as the StAR Initiative, the Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project and CRIMJUST provided significant technical assistance and new tools and resources to States parties and stakeholders.

4. Meetings and special events

106. UNODC organized a number of major meetings and special events in order to raise awareness and coordinate efforts in the fight against corruption, some of which are highlighted in the present report. In follow-up to the United Kingdom Anti-Corruption Summit in May 2016, UNODC organized two major regional

workshops to fast-track the implementation of the Convention against Corruption, in South-East Asia and East Africa, respectively. Both workshops brought together government and civil society representatives to identify priority areas and discuss recommendations on the way forward. UNODC is planning to expand such regional efforts to other regions and to follow up with concrete activities at the regional and national levels.

107. UNODC co-hosted the Conference on Promoting International Cooperation in Combating Illicit Financial Flows and Enhancing Asset Recovery to Foster Sustainable Development, held in Abuja from 5 to 7 June 2017. The conference brought together representatives of government, civil society, the private sector and international organizations and highlighted the importance of understanding illicit flows in commercial transactions, asset recovery and international cooperation.

108. The StAR Initiative, together with INTERPOL, serviced the seventh conference of the Global Focal Point Network on Asset Recovery, which was attended by delegates from 45 countries and five regional networks. As a follow-up to the United Kingdom Anti-Corruption Summit, the StAR Initiative also supported the first Global Forum on Asset Recovery, which gathered more than 250 participants from 26 States, including representatives of international organizations, civil society and the media.

109. In addition, UNODC participated in a number of conferences and events organized by States and other partners, including the Business 20, the European Union, INTERPOL, OECD, Transparency International, the World Economic Forum and numerous others.

IV. Recommendations

110. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice may wish to urge Member States that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols and the Convention against Corruption and to take every step necessary to ensure their effective implementation, including by:

(a) Supporting the ongoing process of establishing the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto; and

(b) Actively participating in the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention against Corruption and ensuring predictable and reliable funding for its functioning.

111. Furthermore, the Commission may wish to urge States to provide sufficient resources for the convening of working groups and workshops for the implementation of those conventions and in fulfilment of mandates relating to international cooperation and the provision of technical assistance to Member States, upon request, to combat transnational organized crime and corruption.